UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1999/534
11 May 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 May 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the acts of aggression perpetrated by United States and United Kingdom aircraft on 30 April 1999, which caused the deaths of six citizens and further loss to property. The Minister urges you to intervene in order to halt these acts of aggression, which are in complete violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 9 May 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your attention to the fact that United States and United Kingdom aircraft have continued to carry out acts of aggression against the people and Republic of Iraq, on the pretext of enforcing the so-called no-fly zones. These zones have been categorically repudiated by Iraq because they have no legal basis. On 30 April 1999, the aforementioned aircraft perpetrated a further crime against the security and sovereignty of Iraq, dropping five 500-pound NK bombs on Mr. Jirjis Ayyub Sultan and five members of his family as they were tending their sheep in one of the villages in the northern Governorate of Nineveh. The savage bombardment killed the six citizens, mutilating their bodies almost beyond recognition. More than 100 sheep were killed in this brutal attack, and a car and trailer belonging to Mr. Sultan were consumed by fire.

There are no military targets in the region in which this crime was committed, which means that the bombardment was designed primarily to injure and terrorize civilians. These grave acts of aggression, carried out by two permanent members of the Security Council, constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of an independent State and founder Member of the United Nations, and a disgraceful breach of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

While condemning these acts of aggression, which are in complete violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, Iraq requests you to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom, with a view to halting such acts of aggression and ensuring that they are not repeated. Such acts represent an established policy, pursued by the two aforementioned States in order to achieve their political goals of undermining the sovereignty and independence of Iraq and injuring its people.

In the view of my Government, all States that send their aircraft to carry out these acts of aggression, or which permit such aircraft to take off from their territory, are equally responsible for such acts, and for the material damage and human losses that the Iraqi people continue to sustain. Furthermore, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, Iraq affirms its legally established right to demand compensation for the damage that has resulted from these acts of aggression, which are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the provisions of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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General Assembly
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda items 146 and 147
STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS
CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 10 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the Government of the People's Republic of China issued on 8 May 1999 concerning the NATO attack against the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on 7 May 1999 (see annex).

In addition, I wish to inform you that, as of 10 May, there were 3 persons dead and 20 injured, 5 seriously, who remain hospitalized in critical condition in Belgrade.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 146 and 147, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations

Annex

Statement by the Government of the People's Republic of China
issued on 8 May 1999

The United States-led NATO dropped three missiles from different angles on the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at midnight Friday. The building of the Embassy was seriously damaged. Up till now, 2 had been confirmed dead while more than 20 were injured, with 2 others missing.

The United States-led NATO has been wantonly bombing Yugoslavia for more than 40 days, killing and wounding large numbers of innocent civilians, and now it has even launched an airstrike against the Chinese Embassy. The action is a gross violation of Chinese sovereignty and a random violation of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and norms of international relations. This is rare in diplomatic history.

The Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation and severe condemnation of the barbarian act and lodge the strongest protest. The United States-led NATO should bear all responsibilities arising therefrom. The Chinese Government reserves the right to take further action on the matter.

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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 20 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations transmitting the letter of the same date from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you, as contained in document S/1999/455 of 21 April 1999, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

The Foreign Minister of Iraq, in that letter, by raising irrelevant and extraneous points, makes a cynical attempt to cover up the unflinching support of his Government for a terrorist group that is based in Iraq and that has manifestly claimed responsibility for many terrorist attacks and activities in Iran, the latest one being the assassination of Lieutenant-General Sayyad Shirzai, the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I am sure that you are fully aware of the terrorist nature and activities of this infamous organization. Moreover, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has regularly brought to the attention of the United Nations the details of various transboundary terrorist activities carried out by the members of this terrorist organization from the territory of Iraq in and against the Islamic Republic of Iran (see, for instance, documents S/1994/983 of 21 August 1994, S/1994/1145 of 10 October 1994 and S/1994/1273 of 10 November 1994. This organization maintains its headquarters in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, operates various terrorist camps using Iraqi military facilities and installations throughout Iraq, receives training facilities, weapons and ammunition from Iraq and mainly depends on the political, moral, military and financial support of that Government. The group has, on many occasions, claimed responsibility for many blind terrorist attacks against civilians in Iran, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent Iranian citizens. Therefore, Iran holds the Government of Iraq fully responsible for the subversive operations of this terrorist group, which is funded, directed, supported and conducted with the knowledge and active support of the Government of Iraq.

Ironically, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq considers Iran's warning against terrorism, emanating from Iraq and with its full and extensive support for a terrorist group, as an attempt by Iran to "harm Iraq's good name".

That is truly a distortion of the fact. It is the Government of Iraq which continues to harm "Iraq's good name" by its policies and practices, which are well known to the international community. Iraq's policies and actions to undermine the security and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries have in fact tarnished "Iraq's good name". The unlawful and irresponsible policies of the Government of Iraq to use its territory, where terrorism is nurtured, planned and carried out, against a neighbouring country, would not restore the prestige and pride that the Iraqi people deserve to enjoy in the region and beyond.

The letter of the Foreign Minister of Iraq also contains two types of arguments with no relevance whatsoever to the subject matter and can only be interpreted as a purported attempt to cover up its plain policies of sponsoring terrorism. It is just that - cynical and devoid of any value. First, it refers to some cases relating to the alleged violations of the ceasefire between the two countries. Iran categorically refutes all those allegations made against it in the above-mentioned letter of Iraq's Foreign Minister, and considers these false accusations as sheer propaganda by the Government of Iraq to advance its domestic agenda as well as to distract international attention from its unlawful behaviour. Second, Iran cannot be blamed for that which is related to the consequences of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in August 1990. A reference to this matter in that letter is not only irrelevant and impertinent, but a futile attempt by the Government of Iraq to evade its obligations under the applicable resolutions of the Security Council.

As a victim of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomever committed. Iran rejects unequivocally all acts of violence and stands prepared, as in the past, to cooperate with the international community to combat terrorism wholeheartedly. In this context, I would like to reaffirm that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to self-defence, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter, with a view to safeguarding its security and territorial integrity against terrorist acts.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative